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COMMENTS ON PPO PROGRAM  
EMBASSY MOSCOW

I. Development of PPO Program (1949-1950)

- A. The 1948 State Secrets Act was promulgated by USSR authorities at this time, which in effect prohibited free access to open sources of Soviet literature by the PPO's.
1. PPO's Roberts and Davis reported difficulty in movement within Moscow and lack of entree into research, academic and commercial publication organizations.
  2. The major obstacles were encountered in trying to get the USSR provincial press and the technical and scientific journals. Export of USSR publications to the West at this time was limited to propaganda and "prestige" items which glorified the Soviet regime.

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B. Expansion of the Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga and Subsidized Press (1950-1952).

1. Under PPO McLane, the central USSR outlet agency in Moscow for export to the West added many titles to the authorized export list, including the provincial press and certain technical journals. This period also saw the subsidized air-mailing of the central press to the West.
2. PPO McLane was able to make procurement trips to Central Asia and Siberia, and reported many new titles and corroborated the existence or non-existence of other titles.

II. Maturing of PPO Program under Ambassador Bohlen (1953-1957)

Because of Ambassador Bohlen's personal interest in and support of the PPO program, it is at this time that the program made the greatest headway.

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A. Attempts to Renew Exchanges with Official Libraries.

1. Under PPO's Leonard and Lowry, initial steps were taken to develop exchanges with official USSR libraries.
2. Travel to the provinces of the USSR was established as a normal duty of the PPO.
3. As a result of the impetus given the PPO program, the USSR provincial press and the journals of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR were increased.
4. The PPO established with the Library of Congress the University Program, by which the libraries of the Universities of Yale, Harvard, Chicago, California and Stanford were able to get duplicate copies of USSR books in selected fields.

B. The Post-Geneva Era.

1. The atmosphere being considered appropriate, Professor Malia of Harvard was appointed by the Library of Congress and the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies to visit the libraries of the USSR and determine the feasibility of expanded exchanges. As a result Professor Malia and the PPO were able to set up an increased exchange program.
2. The PPO developed extremely profitable over-the-counter procedures with Moscow book store clerks, by which copies of critically-needed books and serials were set aside for the PPO.
3. The PPO obtained monographs of scientific-research institutes in the USSR which had not been procured regularly before.

III. The Program Today and Future Planning.

A. Systematic Staffing of the PPO.

1. Thanks to Ambassador Bohlen's full sponsorship of the PPO program, the staffing of PPO's was made from the best qualified personnel, e.g., top-level graduates of the Regensburg training school in Germany, given an opportunity to have a tour of duty in Washington after graduation and prior to assignment to Moscow. In the case of the present PPO, Mr. Harry Barnes, he proceeded to Moscow after a two months tour of duty in [REDACTED]

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2. One of the most significant moves under Ambassador Bohlen was the concept of the single fund, whereby all Washington agencies procuring publications from Moscow would pool their monies in one fund. This process would remove many trivial and yet time-consuming labors from the PPO. The concept is currently under study in State.

B. Full Time Assistant and/or Second PPO.

1. The current problem for the future lies in the possibility of having a full-time American assistant for the PPO or a second PPO. This would permit more travel for the PPO and preserve the Moscow operation while travel was being made. Questions of Embassy space and housing in Moscow are the major obstacles to be overcome.
2. The Library of Congress has proposed that it be permitted to send a representative to Moscow. He would stay at a hotel and use Embassy mail room privileges. This proposal is currently being studied.

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